by small scale units which are not required to obtain industrial licence under the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act. However, all drug and formulation manufacturing units whether in the organised or in the unorganised sector are required to obtain drug licence under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

IMPROVEMENT OF PENICILLIN MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY

*311. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:

SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken for improving the technology of Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd. for the manufacture of Penicillin;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have received offers for this project and what is the time frame for implementation of improvement plan; and

(c) whether Government are inviting offers for selling equity in HAL for upgradation of technology of HAL ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The technology improvement is a continuous process. As a result of the efforts over the years, the rated capacity of Penicillin of Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd. (HAL) increased from 9 MMU in 1955-56 to 740 MMU in 1992-93. The production has increased from 1 MMU in 1955-56 to 713 MMU in 1992-93.

(b) Yes, Sir. Some private sector companies have indicated their interest in collaborating with Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd. for production of penicillin. No formal proposal as such has been received by the company.

(c) No, Sir.

AFFAIRS OF IPCL

*312. SHRI MOHD. KHALEEUR RAHMAN:

SHRI CHIMANBAI MEHTA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that IPCL's net sales was 18.3 per cent and gross profits 10.4 per cent lower as compared to the corresponding period of last year for the six months ending September 30;

(b) if so, the details and causes of poor performance of the IPCL;

(c) whether the IPCL is deficient in technology compared to similar local or international companies or over-staffed and falls short of in respect of modern sound management practices and State-of-art technology;

(d) the reasons for which the IPCL would not withstand increased international competition due to cut in import duties; and

(e) whether input costs have gone up during the last six months including the cost of naphtha which is 30 per cent higher than international price ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There has been a shortfall in the anticipated production, sales and profits during the six months period ending the 30th Sep-

tember, 1993. According to IPCL the main causes of the shortfall are:

(i) impact of the increase in the administered price of naphtha together with local levies; and

(ii) depressed product prices in international market and lower custom duties thereon resulting in pressure on the margins.

(iii) depressed prices due to sale of products imported duty free under value based advanced licensing system.

(iv) extended maintenance shut downs in Baroda and Nagothane complexes during April|May, 1993;

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) The major reasons for the increased pressure on the margins of IPCL are higher domestic feedstock prices, higher financing charges, higher capital goods duty and high cost of power, fuel and utilities. The cost of naphtha delivered at IPCL's plant at Baroda is around 30 per cent higher than the international prices.

**अनुभाग अधिकारी/आशुलिपिक के पद के लिए परीक्षा में हिन्दी के प्रयोग का विकल्प**

313. **श्री कामेश्वर पासवान :** क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि केन्द्रीय सचिवालय के मंत्रालयों/विभागों में कार्यरत सहायकों/अनुभाग अधिकारियों तथा अन्य अधिकारियों को दैनंदिन कार्य में राजभाषा हिन्दी का प्रयोग करने के लिए बढ़ावा दिया जाता है;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि सरकार ने विभागीय परीक्षा में प्रश्नों के उत्तर हिन्दी में दिये जाने के विकल्प संबंधी अनुदेश जारी किए हैं; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार अनुभाग अधिकारी/आशुलिपिक श्रेणी-ख की विभागीय परीक्षा में उम्मीदवारों को उत्तर हिन्दी में लिखने का विकल्प दिये जाने का विचार रखती है; यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

**कार्मिक, लोक शिकायत और पेंशन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री और संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्यमंत्री (श्रीमती मारग्रेट आल्वा) :** (क) जी, हां।

(ख) जी, हां।

(ग) अनुभाग अधिकारी/आशुलिपिक (ग्रेड "ख") की सीमित विभागीय प्रतियोगी परीक्षा के 5 प्रश्न-पत्रों में से 3 प्रश्न-पत्रों में हिन्दी में उत्तर दिए जाने का विकल्प पहले से ही उपलब्ध है।

**FIRE INCIDENT AT NAMRUP PLANT OF HINDUSTAN FERTILIZER CORPORATION**

*314. **SHRIMATI ILA PANDA :** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there was a case of fire in the ammonia unit at the Namrup plant of the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation ;

(b) if so, what was the extent of loss in terms of life and property at the plant; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the fire was caused by extremists as reported in the press ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPAREMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO):** (a) and (b) There was a fire in the cable trench of Namrup-II ammonia plant of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFC) on 4th December, 1993. The fire was controlled within three hours. There was no loss of life or injury to any person. The estimated cost of replacement of the damaged items is about Rs. 175 lakhs.